



ESTABLISHED 1877—NEW SERIES.

WASHINGTON, D. C. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1892.—TWELVE PAGES.

VOL. XII—NO. 7—WHOLE NO. 579.

HISTORY OF THE CORPS.

How They Were Formed and of What Troops Composed.

THE SEVENTH CORPS.

Departments of Virginia and Arkansas.

ROSTER OF THE CORPS.

Siege of Suffolk, Va.—The Camden (Ark.) Expedition, etc.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA.

THE Seventh Corps, Department of Virginia, was constituted by War Department General Order, No. 84, dated July 22, 1862, and was composed of the forces of the Department of Virginia, commanded by Maj.-Gen. John A. Dix. It had official existence until Aug. 1, 1863, when it was discontinued by War Department General Order, No. 262, and the troops composing it were transferred to the Eighteenth Corps, under the command of Maj.-Gen. John G. Foster.

Maj.-Gen. Dix was on June 1, 1862, directed to proceed immediately to Fort Monroe and assume command at that point, reporting to Maj.-Gen. George B. McClellan. On the 3d of June he was directed by Gen. McClellan, commanding the Army of the Potomac, to assume command of the troops at Fort Monroe, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and in the vicinity of those places, exercising within his command the functions of the commander of a division or of a separate corps. On the 20th of July the strength of Dix's command present for duty was 9,997; on special duty, sick and in arrest, 1,042; absent, 739; aggregate, present and absent, 11,774.

The military complications resulting from the unsuccessful Peninsula and Pope's campaign in northern Virginia render it impracticable to give a statement showing with any exactness the composition of the Seventh Corps, as contemplated by the order of the War Department of July 22 above referred to. We have therefore to rely upon the returns of the Department of Virginia, which show for Aug. 31, 1862, the various troops in that department, their stations, etc., as follows:

Fort Monroe, Va.—Maj. Joseph Roberts, 4th Art.—Detachment Regulars, detachment 99th N. Y. Inf., Batteries Wis. Light Art. (2d and 4th).

Camp Hamilton, Va.—Brig.-Gen. Henry W. Wessels. Fourth Corps—92d N. Y., 96th N. Y., 55th, 101st, 103d Pa. Seventh Corps—11th Pa. Cav. (Co. C), 5th Md., 7th Battery N. Y. Light Art.

Newport News, Va.—Maj. Reuben King—85th N. Y., 11th Pa. Cav. (Co. M).

Norfolk, Va.—Brig.-Gen. Egbert L. Viele—Detachment 1st N. Y. M'd Rifles, 99th N. Y. (6 companies), 55th Pa., 19th Wis., 4th U. S. Art., Battery D.

Suffolk, Va.—Brig.-Gen. J. K. F. Mansfield. Seventh Corps—Brig.-Gen. Max Weber—1st Del., 3d, 4th, 13th, 25th N. Y., 1st N. Y. M'd Rifles, 11th Pa. Cav., 4th U. S. Art., Battery L. Fourth Corps—Brig.-Gen. Orris S. Ferry—39th Ill., 13th Ind., 62d, 67th Ohio.

Fort Wool—Capt. Ira Winans—Detachment 99th N. Y.

Sewell's Point—Capt. John C. Lee—Detachment 99th N. Y.

Maj.-Gen. E. D. Keyes, commanding: Yorktown, Va.—Fourth Corps. Second Division—Maj.-Gen. John J. Peck. Seventh Corps—Brig.-Gen. James H. Van Alen—1st Ind't Battalion N. Y. Vols., Detachment 4th Pa. Cav., 7th Battery Mass. Light Art., Detachment 1st N. Y. Art.

Williamsburg, Va.—3d Battalion 6th N. Y. Cav., 5th Pa. Cav., Reserve Art.

Gloucester Point, Va.—Maj. J. Watts DePeyster—Battery N. Y. Art.

The strength of the command was as follows:

Command.	Officers.	Men.	Aggregate present.	Aggregate present and absent.	Pieces of field artillery.
Dept. Hdq'r's.	17	2	19	19	
Fort Monroe.	14	300	455	493	10
Camp Hamilton.	10	1,855	2,227	2,916	6
Newport News.	31	829	508	782	6
Norfolk.	8	1,629	2,061	2,261	6
Suffolk.	228	4,961	5,792	7,178	6
Total.	408	9,224	11,183	14,630	28
Fourth Corps.	7	—	7	10	
Williamsburg.	56	1,041	1,255	1,527	20
Yorktown, Va.	147	2,654	3,222	3,459	11
Gloucester Point, Va.	23	630	751	806	4
Total.	4	104	110	152	4
Total.	237	4,399	5,346	7,094	24
Fort Wool.	3	65	70	85	
Sewell's Point.	1	70	80	92	
Grand total.	726	13,700	16,548	22,821	52

Maj.-Gen. John Adams Dix was born in Beacon, N. H., July 24, 1795; entered the United States Army as Ensign and served through the war of 1812, and had reached the grade of Captain when he resigned, Dec. 31, 1828. He, having studied law while in the Army, was upon his return from an extended tour through Europe, admitted to the

bar and commenced practice at Cooperstown, N. Y. He subsequently served as Adjutant-General, Secretary of State, and as member of the House of Representatives of the State of New York. He was elected United States Senator from that State and served from Jan. 27, 1845, to March 3, 1849. In 1860 he was appointed Postmaster of the City of New York. He succeeded Hon. Philip F. Thomas as Secretary of State of the United States, and served from Jan. 11 to March 3, 1861, and as such issued the famous order, "If any man attempt to haul down the American flag shoot him on the spot." On the 16th of May, 1861, he was appointed Major-General of Volunteers, U. S. Army, serving in that grade until Nov. 30, 1865, when he resigned. Gen. Dix in April, 1862, was assigned to the command of the Middle Department, with headquarters at Baltimore, Md. He was relieved from this command June 1, 1862, and assigned to command at Fort Monroe, Va., and on June 3, 1862, he assumed that command, styling it the Department of Virginia. On July 18, 1863, he was assigned to the command of the Department of the East, where he served until the close of the war. He was Minister to France 1867-8, and in 1872 was elected Governor of New York. He died April 21, 1879.

Early in September, 1862, after the embarkation of the Army of the Potomac from the Peninsula, Gen. John J. Peck was placed in command at Suffolk, Va., an important military position for the defense of Norfolk, and as a base of operations against the Weldon & Petersburg Railroad. A system of defenses for its protection was immediately commenced.

No event of importance occurred until the battle of Deserter House, Va., Jan. 30, 1863. On the 29th of January information was received by Gen. Peck, commanding the United States forces at Suffolk, Va., that Gen. Roger A. Pryor, of the Confederate army, had gone in the direction of Deserter House with some 2,000 infantry and 500 cavalry and a number of pieces of artillery. Gen. Peck at once organized a special force of about 4,500 men of all arms and placed it under the command of Brig.-Gen. M. Corcoran, instructing him to proceed cautiously and ascertain the locality of the enemy and force him from his position, inflicting all loss possible.

Gen. Corcoran took command of the troops designated for the expedition, and soon arrived at the point previously selected for the rendezvous and found most of the regiments on the ground. Early on the morn-

ing of the 30th, everything being in readiness, the march commenced and continued until arriving near the Nansemond County Poorhouse, where a short halt was made. The march was soon resumed, and when within about one mile from Deserter House, the advance met the enemy's pickets, posted in strong force on the road and in the woods. This was shortly after 3 p. m. The pickets were soon driven, and an open space gained in front of the enemy. Fire was at once opened by the artillery of both sides, and kept up incessantly until 6 a. m. Shortly after 5 a. m. Gen. Corcoran ordered the infantry to advance. This order, twice repeated, was not promptly executed. Gen. Corcoran as soon as he learned the cause went in person and soon remedied matters, and about 6 o'clock the charge with the bayonet was made, the enemy rapidly retreating. He was pursued vigorously until the troops reached a thick wood and marsh. It was now after 10 a. m., and a halt was made to give the men breakfast and await fresh supplies of ammunition and reinforcements. The supplies and reinforcements having reached Gen. Corcoran soon after 11 o'clock, another attack was at once determined on, the enemy having formed about two miles in advance. As soon as the command commenced to move the enemy at once commenced his retreat, and all possible haste was made to overtake his fleeing battalions. At Peconin Creek a sharp skirmish occurred between the 13th Ind. and the rear-guard. The cavalry followed two miles beyond Carrville, when pursuit was discontinued and the command returned to Deserter House.

The following is a detailed statement of the casualties:

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Capt'd or missing.	Aggregate.
13th Ind.	1	11	—	12
7th Mass. battery.	—	1	—	1
6th Mass.	—	1	—	1
99th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
12th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
13th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
15th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
16th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
17th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
18th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
19th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
20th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
21st N. Y.	—	1	—	1
22nd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
23rd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
24th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
25th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
26th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
27th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
28th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
29th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
30th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
31st N. Y.	—	1	—	1
32nd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
33rd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
34th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
35th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
36th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
37th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
38th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
39th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
40th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
41st N. Y.	—	1	—	1
42nd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
43rd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
44th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
45th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
46th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
47th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
48th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
49th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
50th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
51st N. Y.	—	1	—	1
52nd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
53rd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
54th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
55th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
56th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
57th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
58th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
59th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
60th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
61st N. Y.	—	1	—	1
62nd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
63rd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
64th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
65th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
66th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
67th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
68th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
69th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
70th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
71st N. Y.	—	1	—	1
72nd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
73rd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
74th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
75th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
76th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
77th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
78th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
79th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
80th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
81st N. Y.	—	1	—	1
82nd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
83rd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
84th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
85th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
86th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
87th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
88th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
89th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
90th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
91st N. Y.	—	1	—	1
92nd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
93rd N. Y.	—	1	—	1
94th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
95th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
96th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
97th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
98th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
99th N. Y.	—	1	—	1
100th N. Y.	—	1	—	1

The Confederate loss in this affair was eight killed and 31 wounded. The following was composition of troops in the Department of Virginia (Seventh Corps), Maj.-Gen. John A. Dix, U. S. A., commanding, March 31, 1863.

139th N. Y., 11th Pa. Cav. (Co. C), 3d Pa. Art. (battalion).
Norfolk—Brig.-Gen. Egbert L. Viele—148th N. Y., 173d Pa., 177th Pa., 19th Wis., 11th Pa. Cav. (Co. F), 7th N. Y. battery.
Suffolk—Peck's Division—Maj.-Gen. John J. Peck. Corcoran's Brigade—Brig.-Gen. Michael Corcoran—69th N. Y., 155th N. Y., 164th N. Y., 170th N. Y. Terry's Brigade—Brig.-Gen. H. D. Terry—99th N. Y., 130th N. Y., 1st N. Y. Battalion Sharpshooters, 167th Pa. Foster's Brigade—Col. R. S. Foster—13th Ind., 6th Mass., 112th N. Y., 165th Pa., 166th Pa.
Getty's Division—Brig.-Gen. George W. Getty. First Brigade—Col. Harrison S. Fairchild—10th N. H., 9th N. Y., 89th N. Y., 103d N. Y. Second Brigade—Col. Edward Harland—8th Conn., 11th Conn., 15th Conn., 16th Conn. Third Brigade—Col. A. H. Dutton—21st Conn., 13th N. H., 25th N. Y., 4th R. I. Artillery—1st Pa., Battery A, 5th U. S. Artillery A.
Unassigned—1st N. Y. M'd Rifles, 11th Pa. Cav., 7th Mass. battery, 3d Pa. H. A. (battalion), 4th U. S. Art. (Battery D), 4th U. S. Art. (Battery L), 2d Wis. battery, 4th Wis. battery.
Yorktown—Maj.-Gen. Erasmus D. Keyes. Busted's Brigade—Brig.-Gen. Richard Busted—4th Del., 16th N. Y., 169th Pa., 178th Pa., 179th Pa. Unassigned—172d Pa., 2d Mass. Cav. (1st battalion), 6th N. Y. Cav. (3d battalion), 5th Pa. Cav., 1st N. Y. Art. (Batteries F and H), 8th N. Y. battery, 1st Pa. Art. (Batteries E and H), 5th U. S. Art. (Battery M).

Strength as shown by tri-monthly return of the Department of Virginia (Seventh Corps), Maj.-Gen. John A. Dix commanding, for March 31, 1863:

Command.	Present for duty.		Aggregate present.	Aggregate present and absent.	Pieces of field artillery.
	Officers.	Men.			
Headquarters Fort Monroe— Maj.-Gen. John A. Dix.....	16		16	18	
Fort Monroe: Col. S. M. Alford. Infantry.....	20	522	710	828	
Attached garrison.....			28	28	
Total.....	20	522	738	856	
Camp Hamilton: Col. Anthony Conk. Infantry.....	29	651	729	777	
Cavalry.....	3	69	79	84	
Artillery.....	10	314	364	379	
Total.....	42	1,034	1,171	1,240	
Norfolk: Brig.-Gen. E. L. Vile. Infantry.....	186	2,561	3,090	3,232	
Cavalry.....	2	49	60	88	
Artillery.....	4	138	154	167	6
Total.....	192	2,748	3,304	3,487	6
Suffolk: Maj.-Gen. J. J. Peck. Infantry.....	640	11,752	14,250	17,457	
Cavalry.....	66	1,510	2,015	2,253	4
Artillery.....	28	1,001	1,142	1,254	10
Total.....	734	14,263	17,407	20,964	14
Yorktown: Maj.-Gen. E. D. Keyes. Infantry.....	199	2,920	3,566	4,168	
Cavalry.....	47	972	1,225	1,397	
Artillery.....	10	356	440	609	
Total.....	256	4,248	5,231	6,174	
Grand Total.....	1,216	22,815	27,967	32,741	20

Shortly after the engagement at Deserter House, Va., great apprehensions were felt by the Confederates for the safety of Richmond. Gen. Longstreet with two divisions of his corps was therefore early in February detached from the Army of Northern Virginia and sent to operate against Gen. Peck. A line of fortifications was constructed from the Blackwater to Fort Powhatan, on the James River, by the Confederates, and an army numbering perhaps 30,000 had been so placed as to enable their immediate concentration near Suffolk at short notice. In April Gen. Longstreet began preparations to swoop down upon Peck. These preparations contemplated the crossing of the Nansemond with a large force, the capture of the Federal garrison and the seizure of the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, thus menacing Fortress Monroe. With the view of deceiving Peck and weakening his force it was reported that Longstreet had gone to South Carolina, and a force of Confederate troops were, in fact, sent toward New Bern, N. C., the object being to draw a portion of Peck's troops toward that point, while Longstreet remained in complete readiness for an advance. The preparations having been completed, Longstreet with about 25,000 men crossed the river by means of pontoon bridges and marched rapidly toward Suffolk. Meanwhile Peck, by the exercise of tireless vigilance, had kept himself fully informed of the enemy's designs, and felt keen regret at receiving an order at this juncture to send a force of 3,000 men to oppose the Confederate forces reported to be marching toward New Bern. It happened, however, that before the order had been executed the capture of a Confederate mail at Norfolk disclosed the plans of Longstreet, showing that no actual demonstration by the Confederates toward New Bern was contemplated, and the execution of the order was therefore suspended. Longstreet, on finding that his ruse had failed, and that Admiral Lee had sent gunboats, and for this purpose batteries were constructed at night. The boats, however, kept up a gallant fight, ably aiding the land forces during the period of siege, which lasted nearly a month.

By this time the Confederates had been reinforced until their numbers reached about 40,000, and serious conflicts with alternate success and defeat were of daily occurrence. The Confederates, however, notwithstanding their vastly superior numbers and their repeated attempts, failed of their object, and on May 3, 1863, while Lee and Hooker were fighting the battle of Chancellorsville, Longstreet began a retreat, and was pursued to the Blackwater by the troops under the command of Gens. Dodge and Corcoran and

Col. Foster. This terminated the siege of Suffolk, and was a sad defeat to the Confederates, who contemplated the recovery of the territory lying south of the James River to Albemarle Sound, N. C.; the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth, besides the capture of a large amount of valuable supplies and thousands of contrabands.

The success of Peck had an important effect upon the battle of Chancellorsville, as it prevented the sending of reinforcements from Longstreet to Lee, and perhaps saved the Army of the Potomac from greater disaster than it sustained in that battle. The services of Peck elicited warm commendation from his superiors. In a letter to him, dated Feb. 15, 1865, Gen. Meade says: "That with the limited force under your command you should have held in check and defeated the designs of such superior numbers, is a fact of which you may well be proud, as the most practical proof of your own skill and the gallantry of your troops."

In a letter of Jan. 1, 1865, Gen. Slocum says: "I think the gratitude of the Nation is due to you and your gallant little army for the important services performed at Suffolk," and, on Jan. 30, 1865, Gen. Stoneman, in a letter, says: "I have always looked upon it as a most fortunate thing for us that you were enabled to hold Longstreet at Suffolk."

The following is a statement in detail of the casualties of the corps during the siege of Suffolk, April 11-May 4, 1863.

Command.	Kill'd.		W'nd'd.		Cap'd or missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	
Corcoran's Division.							
Terry's Brigade.							
130th N. Y.	1		5				6
1st Battalion N. Y. Sharpshooters.							
167th Pa.	1		4		1		6
Total	2		10				12
Foster's Brigade.							
13th Ind.		1		1			2
155th N. Y.	1	3	4				8
166th Pa.	1	4					5
Total		2	15	1			16
Murphy's Brigade.							
155th N. Y.		1	4				5
164th N. Y.		1	8				10
Total		1	12				15
Tot'l Corcoran's Div.	5	6	45		1	57	
Getty's Division.							
First Brigade.							
89th N. Y.	3	1	9				13
164th N. Y.	1	2	15				18
Total	1	5	24				30
Second Brigade.							
8th Conn.		4	16				20
11th Conn.		2	1	3			4
15th Conn.		1	4				5
16th Conn.		3	19				22
Total		10	3	41			54
Third Brigade.							
21st Conn.		1	3				4
13th N. H.	1	2	2				5
25th N. J.	1	2	13				16
4th R. I.		1	4				5
Total	2	5	2	34			43
Light Artillery.							
5th U. S. Battery A.				3			3
Total				3			3
Total Getty's Division	3	20	8	102			133
Reserve Brigade.							
95th N. Y.		13	4	54			71
Total		13	4	54			71
Cavalry.							
1st N. Y. M'd'd Rifles				4		1	5
Total				4		1	5
Grand Total	3	38	18	205	2	2	206